



October 10, 2014

The Honorable Ernest Moniz
Secretary, United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dr. John P. Holdren
Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. Daniel G. Utech
Special Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

RE: AGA Comments on Natural Gas Emissions for Quadrennial Energy Review (QER)

Dear Secretary Moniz, Director Holdren and Mr. Utech:

The American Gas Association (AGA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the first phase of the Quadrennial Energy Review (QER) on energy transmission infrastructure and storage. In light of the robust information already provided by AGA and its member during your excellent roundtable discussions and hearings this summer, we felt it might be most useful to collect and organize our materials on a topical basis. Attached to this letter, you will find our documentation on three critical issues facing the natural gas distribution industry that we believe the QER could usefully address. These issues are:

- The vital role played by natural gas in enhancing our national energy resiliency;
- The need for policies to encourage expansion of natural gas service to unserved and under-served areas across the nation, and
- The importance of modernizing permitting relating to natural gas system expansion and modernization projects.

We have also submitted, under separate cover, our comments relating to methane emissions and the natural gas distribution sector.

The American Gas Association, founded in 1918, represents more than 200 local energy companies that deliver clean natural gas throughout the United States. There are more than 71 million residential, commercial, and industrial natural gas customers in the U.S., of which 94 percent—over 68 million customers—receive their gas from AGA members. AGA is an advocate for natural gas utility companies and their customers. Today, natural gas meets more than one-fourth of the United States' energy needs.

Attached to this letter you will find:

1. An AGA White Paper describing the inherent characteristics that make natural gas transmission and distribution systems highly resilient and identifying areas for constructive policies to further enhance resilience.
2. AGA testimony on Permit Modernization as delivered at the August 21, 2014 QER Public Hearing in Cheyenne, Wyoming
3. AGA testimony on innovative state policies to encourage expansion of natural gas service, as delivered to the House Committee on Energy and Technology of the State of Michigan;
4. An AGA authored article describing the need for improved coordination between natural gas and electric systems, as submitted to the journal Power Engineering.

For more detailed treatment of the opportunities for greater use of natural gas across all sectors of our economy, and the policy challenges that remain, we also recommend for your reference a major study completed by IHS CERA earlier this year through support of the American Gas Foundation, *Fueling the Future with Natural Gas: Bringing it Home*. The full study, along with an executive summary, is available for download at www.fuelingthefuture.org.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the first phase of the Department's Quadrennial Energy Review.

Respectfully,

/s/Kathryn Clay

Kathryn Clay, Ph.D.
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American Gas Association